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Viewing cable 08MANAMA795, U) SCENESETTER FOR THE MANAMA DIALOGUE, DECEMBER 12-14 REF: A. MANAMA 759 B. STATE 123514 C. MANAMA 773

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08MANAMA795**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08MANAMA795	2008-12-02 10:35	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Embassy Manama

Appears in these articles:

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8287
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANAMA 000795

NOFORN

DEFENSE FOR OSD
STATE FOR P
JCS FOR CHAIRMAN MULLEN
CENTCOM FOR GENERAL PETREAU

FROM AMBASSADOR ADAM ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2038
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#) [RS](#) [CH](#) [IN](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: (U) SCENESETTER FOR THE MANAMA DIALOGUE, DECEMBER 12-14 REF: A. MANAMA 759 B. STATE 123514 C. MANAMA 773

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

- [1.](#) (S/NF) Mr. Secretary, Ambassador Burns, Chairman Mullen, General Petraeus - Embassy Manama is delighted to welcome you all back to Bahrain.
- [2.](#) (S/NF) In bilateral discussions Bahraini leaders will focus, as always, on Iran and the need for continued American leadership. In addition t
- [3.](#) (C) This year's Manama Dialogue will be the fifth organized here by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
Iran ----
- [4.](#) (S/NF) There is no love lost between the Bahraini leadership and the Iranian regime. The King and Crown Prince see Iran as the most serious
- [5.](#) (S) Bahrain views its defense needs through the prism of the Iranian threat. As the smallest GCC state, lacking the oil wealth of its neighbc
Iraq ----
- [6.](#) (S) King Hamad has been forward-leaning in recognizing Iraq and working to reintegrate it with the Arab world. He sent an Ambassador to Ba
- [7.](#) (S) We have also prodded Bahrain's leaders to think about integrating Iraq into the region's security architecture. Given the changed strat

Israel, and a Proposed New Regional Organization -----

18. (S/NF) Bahrain has no formal relations with Israel but has long had unofficial contacts with Israel's MFA. Sheikh Khalid's most recent meet

19. (S) In a September 27 speech to the UNGA, FM Shaikh Khalid proposed a new regional organization that would include Israel, Iran, Turkey and Russia, China and India -----

110. (S/NF) King Hamad visited Russia for the first time this month, on December 2. At her meeting with Shaikh Khalid November 18 (ref B) , Sec

111. (S) The King has expressed concern to us on two occasions that China's role in the Gulf might one day expand beyond trade and into securit Internal Dissent -----

112. (C) King Hamad's reforms -- revival of an elected lower house of parliament, press liberalization, and a more transparent justice system -

113. (C) Wifaq, the party that dominates Bahrain's Shi'a majority, advocates for redress of Shi'a grievances through electoral politics. The St

114. (C) Bahraini leaders are becoming increasingly impatient with sectarianism and with Shi'a street violence. We should urge the GOB to stick

115. (C) Some Bahraini Sunnis, in and out of government, suggest to foreigners (and may even believe themselves) that Iran is behind Shi'a disc

116. (S) Staff for Congressman Frank Wolf invited two Haq leaders last month to speak at a public briefing on Capitol Hill on human rights. Mar Economy -----

117. (C) Bahrain's liberalized economy has been growing at 6-7 percent in recent years. We expect that growth to slow to about 5 percent. The f

118. (C) Bahrain's demand for oil and natural gas will exceed its supply in the next few years, and the GOB is casting about for new sources of Counterterrorism -----

119. (S/NF) Bahrain's Sunni extremist scene is small and watched closely by the authorities. Bahrain's security services collaborate closely wi Regional Air and Missile Defense -----

120. (S) At a meeting earlier this year with CENTAF commander Gen Gary North, Bahraini Crown Prince Salman confirmed that Bahrain is eager to s

121. (S) Bahrain eagerly hosted General North's June, 2008 meeting of GCC air chiefs, and continues to support his follow-up efforts to improve Patriots and Aegis -----

122. (S/NF) Given its worries about Iranian pressure, the Bahraini government deeply appreciates the U.S. Patriot battery that was recently dep Maritime Picture -----

123. (S) NAVCENT continues efforts to develop a shared maritime picture among its partners in the region to counter criminals and terrorists. F

124. (C) Bahrain's outdated coastal radar is a potential vulnerability for a Bahraini government concerned about ongoing drug smuggling and, if Conclusion -----

125. (C) Bahrain's leaders are supportive of the American presence in the region, and will be receptive to requests that they continue to enga

***** Visit Embassy Manama's Classified Website: <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/manama/> *****